Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A system for facilitating the exchange of speech recognition and transcription among users, the system comprising:

at least one system transaction manager adapted to receive a speech information request from at least one of the users employing a first system protocol, and configured to route a response to one or more of the users employing a second system protocol that ~~may be the same as or~~ is different than the first system protocol, the response comprised of a formatted transcription of formatted spoken text; and

at least one speech recognition and transcription engine communicating with the system transaction manager, the speech recognition and transcription engine configured to receive the speech information request from the system transaction manager, to generate a response to the speech information request, and to transmit the response to the system transaction manager.

2. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the system transaction manager utilizes a uniform system protocol for handling the speech information request and the response.

3. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the system transaction manager is adapted to receive the speech information request from a subscriber.

4. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the speech information request comprises formatted spoken text.

5. (Previously presented) The system of claim 4 wherein the formatted spoken text is generated speech information to be transcribed and routed to the one or more users of the system.

6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the speech information request comprises previously transcribed formatted spoken text.

7. (Previously presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the previously transcribed formatted spoken text includes previously transcribed speech.

8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a first user application service adapter, the first user application service adapter communicating with the at least one of the users that employ the first system protocol and with the system transaction manager.

9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 8, further comprising a second user application service adapter, the second user application service adapter communicating with the one or more users that employ the second system protocol and with the system transaction manager, and providing the one or more users with the response.

10. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the first user application service adapter and the second user application service adapter are different.

11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one speech recognition and transcription engine resides on a speech recognition and transcription server.

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one speech recognition and transcription engine communicates with the system transaction manager through an ASR application service adapter.

13. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising multiple system transaction managers.

14. (Currently amended) A system for facilitating speech recognition and transcription among users, the system comprising:

a system transaction manager configured to receive a speech information request from at least one of the users, the speech information request comprised of formatted spoken text generated from a first system protocol;

a speech recognition and transcription engine communicating with the system transaction manager, the speech recognition and transcription engine configured to receive the speech information request from the system transaction manager, to generate a response to the speech information request, and to transmit the response to the system transaction manager which routes the response to one or more of the users that utilize a second system protocol, the second system protocol being ~~the same as or~~ different than the first system protocol;

wherein the system transaction manager utilizes a uniform system protocol for handling the speech information request and the response, and the response to the speech information request comprises a formatted transcription of the formatted spoken text.

15. (Currently amended) A system for facilitating speech recognition and transcription among users, the system comprising:

a system transaction manager, the system transaction manager utilizing a uniform system protocol for handling speech information requests and responses to speech information requests, the speech information requests and responses comprising, respectively, formatted spoken text and formatted transcriptions of the formatted spoken text;

a first user application service adapter communicating with at least one user and the system transaction manager, the first user application service adapter configured to generate speech information requests from spoken text produced by the at least one of the users through a first protocol;

a speech recognition and transcription engine communicating with the system transaction manager, the speech recognition and transcription engine configured to receive speech information requests from the system transaction manager, to generate responses to the speech

information requests, and to transmit the responses to the system transaction manager; and

a second user application service adapter communicating with one or more of the users and with the system transaction manager, the second user application service adapter ~~being the same as or~~ which is different than the first user application service adapter and configured to provide the one or more users with a transcription of the spoken text that is compatible with a second protocol, the second protocol being the same as or different than the first protocol.

16. (Currently amended) A method of exchanging transcribed spoken text among users, the method comprising:

generating a speech information request from spoken text obtained through a first protocol, the speech information request comprised of formatted spoken text;

transmitting the speech information request to a speech recognition and transcription engine via a system transaction manager;

generating a response to the speech information request using the speech recognition and transcription engine, the response comprised of a formatted transcription of the formatted spoken text;

transmitting the response to a user via the system transaction manager; and

providing the user with a transcription of the spoken text that is compatible with a second protocol that ~~may be the same as or~~ is different than the first protocol.

17. (Currently amended) A method of exchanging transcribed spoken text among users, the method comprising:

generating a speech information request from spoken text obtained through a first protocol, the speech information request comprised of formatted spoken text generated using a first user application service adapter;

transmitting the speech information request to a speech recognition and transcription engine via a system transaction manager;

generating a response to the speech information request using the speech recognition and transcription engine, the response comprised of a formatted transcription of the formatted spoken text;

transmitting the response to a user via the system transaction manager; and

providing the user with a processed transcription of the spoken text using a second user application service adapter, the processed transcription being compatible with a second protocol that ~~may be the same as or~~ is different than the first protocol.